

Remarks

Claims 1-15 are pending in the subject application. Applicants hereby reaffirm the election to prosecute the invention of Group I (claims 1-7), with traverse. Claims 14 and 15 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-13 are currently before the Examiner. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

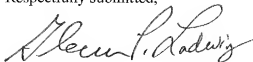
Applicants respectfully request that the claims of Group II (claims 8-13) be examined with claims 1-7 of the subject application. The Restriction Requirement indicates that the Groups do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because they lack the same or corresponding technical features. Specifically, the Restriction Requirement asserts that the technical feature common to the Groups is the combination of a matrix protein and cells from the eye, which is described by Isscroff *et al.* (U.S. 2002/0030788). By this Amendment, claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled. De-differentiation of Müller cells is the unifying technical feature of claims 1-13. De-differentiated Müller cells that are produced by the method of claims 1-5, within the composition of claims 6 and 7, and used for treatment according to the method of claims 8-13, represent a unified inventive concept for claims 1-13. De-differentiation of Müller cells is not described in the Isseroff *et al.* publication. The Isseroff *et al.* publication describes corneal cells on a matrix carrier. These are not Müller cells, and they are not de-differentiated.

Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

Respectfully submitted,



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